CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   In an electronic device having a database of records of different

categories, a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:

a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of

said different category types;

b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field

10   for said first category type, said table associating each category of said different

categories with its own sort field;

c) sorting records of said first category type by said first sort field obtained

in step b) to produce a first list; and

d) displaying a portion of said first list on a display screen of said

15   electronic device.

2.   A method as described in Claim 1 and further comprising the steps

of:

receiving another indication from said user that selects a second

20   category type of said different category types;

indexing said table with said second category type to obtain a second

sort field for said second category type;

sorting records of said second category type by said second sort field

obtained to produce a second list; and

25   displaying in list order a portion of said second list on said display

screen.

PALM-3532 US P

-28-

3.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

4.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.

5.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said database is a database of contact information comprising records each having fields defining a name, an address and a telephone number.

6.   A method as described in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
assigning a default sort field for each category of said table; and
allowing a user to define a particular sort field for each category of said table.

7.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said step a) comprises the step of said user depressing a designated button on said electronic device.

8.   In hand-held personal digital assistant having an address database of contact records of different categories, a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:
a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;
b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field for said first category type, said table associating each category of said different categories with its own sort field;

c) sorting contact records of said first category type by said first sort field obtained in step b) to produce a first list; and

d) displaying a portion of said first list on a display screen of said electronic device.

5

9.   A method as described in Claim 8 and further comprising the steps of:

receiving another indication from said user that selects a second category type of said different category types;

10   indexing said table with said second category type to obtain a second sort field for said second category type;

sorting contact records of said second category type by said second sort field obtained to produce a second list; and

displaying in list order a portion of said second list on said display

15   screen.

10.   A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

20   11.   A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.

12.   A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said address database comprises contact records each having fields defining a name, an address and

25   a telephone number.

13.   A method as described in Claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

assigning a default sort field for each category of said table; and

allowing a user to define a particular sort field for each category of said table.

5   14.   A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said step a) comprises the step of said user depressing a designated button on said electronic device.

15.   An electronic device comprising a processor coupled to a bus, a display coupled to said bus and a memory coupled to said bus, said memory

10   having a database of records of different categories and instructions implementing a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:

a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;

b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field

15   for said first category type, said table associating each category of said different categories with its own sort field;

c) sorting records of said first category type by said first sort field obtained in step b) to produce a first list; and

d) displaying a portion of said first list on said display screen.

20

16.   A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

receiving another indication from said user that selects a second category type of said different category types;

25   indexing said table with said second category type to obtain a second sort field for said second category type;

PALM-3532 US P

sorting records of said second category type by said second sort field
obtained to produce a second list; and

displaying in list order a portion of said second list on said display
screen.

5

17.   A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said
electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

18.   A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said
10   electronic device is a wireless telephone.

19.   A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said
database is a database of contact information comprising records each having
fields defining a name, an address and a telephone number.

15

20.   A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said method
further comprises the steps of:

assigning a default sort field for each category of said table; and

allowing a user to define a particular sort field for each category of said
20   table.

21.   A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said step a)
of said method comprises the step of said user depressing a designated button
on said electronic device.